



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** October 31, 2013  
**From:** John McGowan **File:** 09-5000-01/2012-Vol  
Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue 01  
**Re:** Richmond Fire-Rescue – September 2013 Activity Report

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### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled Richmond Fire-Rescue – September 2013 Activity Report, dated October 31, 2013, from the Fire Chief, Richmond Fire-Rescue, be received for information.

John McGowan  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2734)

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY DIRECTORS 	INITIALS: DW
APPROVED BY CAO 	

**Staff Report**

**Origin**

The purpose of this report is to keep Council informed on matters pertaining to public safety services in the community of Richmond.

This report supports Council Term Goal #1: *to ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community to live, work and play in, through the delivery of effective public safety services that are targeted to the City's specific needs and priorities.*

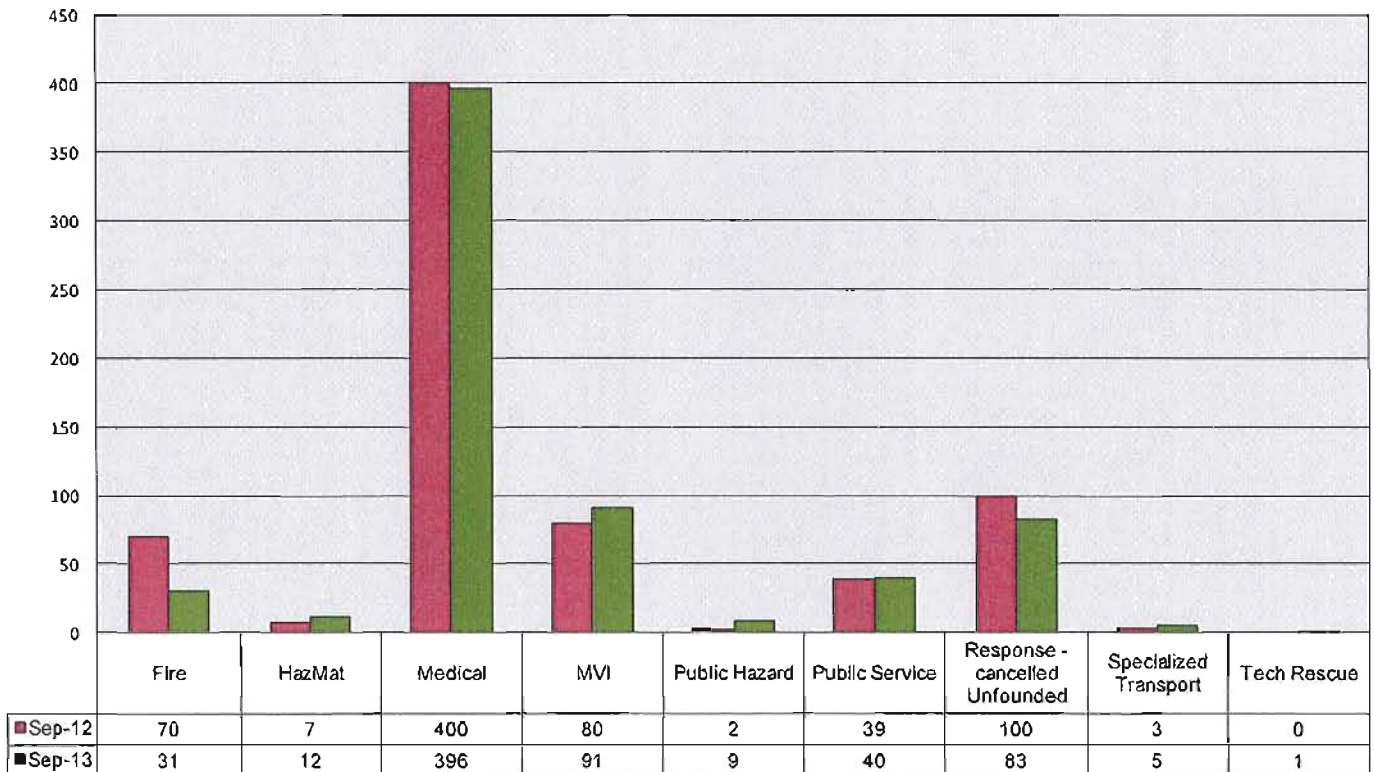
**Analysis**

Richmond Fire-Rescue's report for September 2013 is set out below.

**Suppression Activity**

The following chart provides a month to month comparison of the number of incidents that occurred in September 2012 and September 2013. In September 2013 there were a total of 824 incidents, compared to 801 in September 2012. This represents an increase of 2.9%. Analysis of the events did not provide any significant reason for this increase.

**September 2012 & 2013 Calls for Service Volumes**

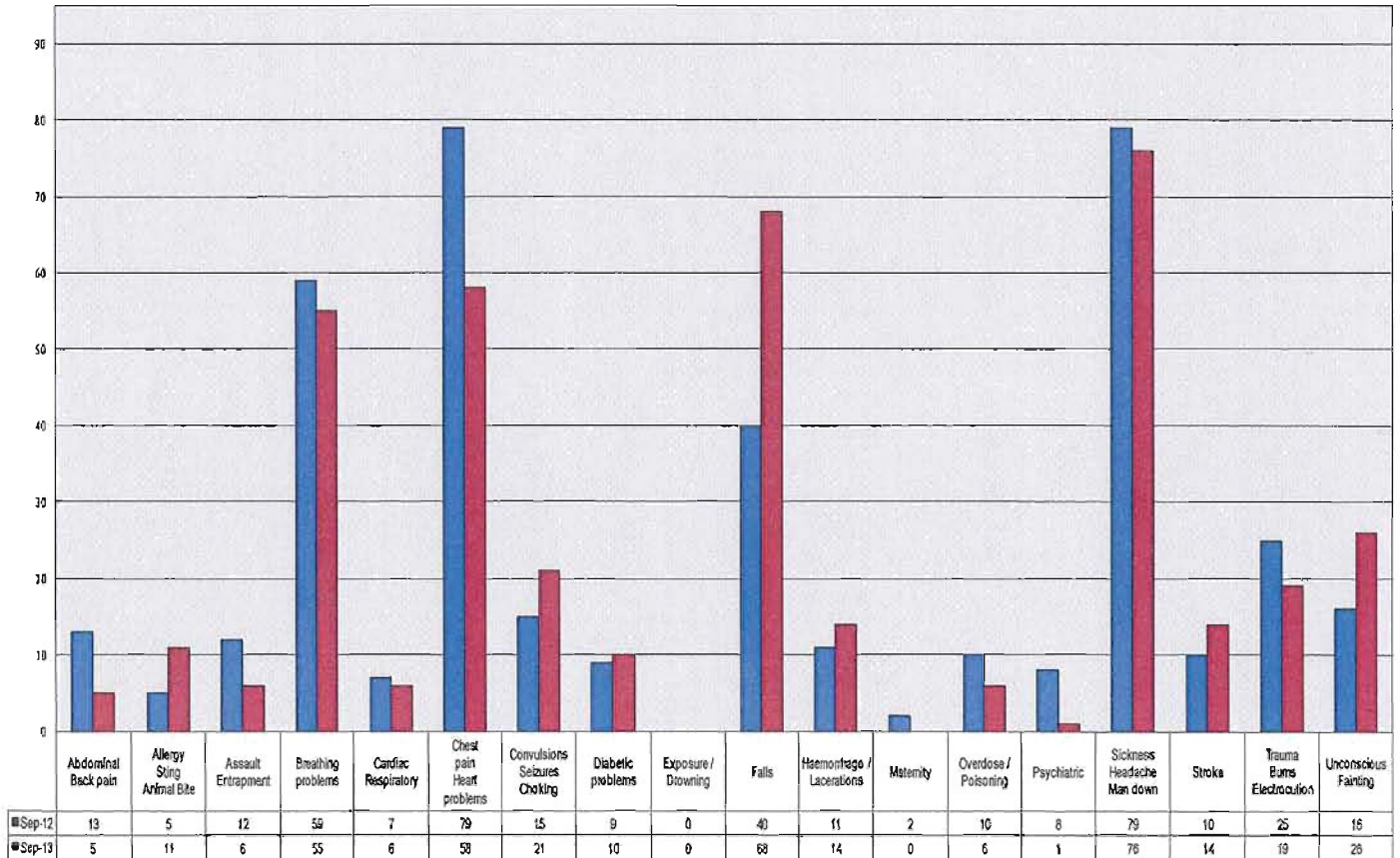


**Call Type Legend:**  
*Alarm Active/No Fire* includes: accidental, malicious, equipment malfunctions  
*HazMat*: includes fuel or vapour, spills, leaks, or containment  
*Medical* includes: cardiac arrest, emergency response, home or industrial accidents  
*Public Hazard* includes: aircraft emergency, bomb removal standby, object removal, or power lines down  
*Public Service* includes: assisting public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in elevator, water removal

### First Responder Totals

Medical calls comprise 48.1% of total calls for RFR. A detailed breakdown of the medical calls for September 2012 and September 2013 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were a total of 396 medical calls in September 2013 and 400 September 2012.

September 2012 & 2013 Medical Calls by Type



### Incidents

Notable emergency incidents which involved RFR for September 2013 were:

#### Medical

During the month of September an RFR crew attended an incident of a collapsed patient at a residence. RFR applied an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) but were unable to revive the person.

A pedestrian was struck by a vehicle and knocked through a storefront window on No 2 Road and Blundell. RFR crew assisted BCAS with patient care.

A male cyclist fell from a bike and suffered injuries on Russ Baker Way. RFR crew attended and assisted BCAS with treatment.

On No 2 Road, a construction worker suffered injuries when he was electrocuted by coming in contact with an underground cable while jack hammering concrete. RFR crew attended and assisted BCAS with treatment.

### Public Service

RFR crews attended to a floating home along River Road which had taken on water through a broken window below the water line. Crews gained access to the property and set up a manual and an electric pump to remove the water. The Coast Guard was contacted and then dispatched from Sea Island, along with the Harbour Authority who was also requested to attend and provide assistance. RFR and the Coast Guard stabilized the house boat by pumping out the water above the water line. Two electric pumps and stabilization bags, provided by Richmond Marine, were used to maintain stability and floatation of the house boat. Once stabilized the care of the house boat was handed over to the Richmond Marine Manager.

### Motor Vehicle Incidents (MVI)

Crews attended a MVI involving 6 vehicles on Blundell and No 5 Road. Crews arrived on scene and provided traffic control and assisted with assessing the patients. Crews assisted BCAS in transferring the patients to the ambulances with 4 requiring spine boards. There was one fatality.

RFR attended an incident of a MVI involving a transit bus and a vehicle. There were 20 people on board the bus at the time of the accident. No injuries reported.

### Fires – Residential / Commercial / Outdoor

During September crews responded to a fire at the rear of a two storey home on Bearcroft Drive. The occupant of the home was sent to hospital with minor burns and the fire was contained to area of origin. A family that rented the basement suite were accommodated in a hotel by Richmond Emergency Essential Services.

Crews were dispatched to a two storey home on Saunders Road with a report of flames coming from it. On arrival all occupants were out of the building and accounted for, but multiple animals were reportedly still inside. The occupant had also reported ammunition and gun powder were in home, on retrieval by RFR crews the consignment was handed over to RCMP. The fire was extinguished and building made secure by RFR crews.

A fire occurred at the rear of a home on Shell Road which involved a pickup truck. The fire was confined to the rear of the building. There were no injuries to occupants.

On Cooney Road, a kitchen fire was reported in a suite on 13<sup>th</sup> floor of a residential high-rise. Upon arrival RFR crews noted that the sprinkler system had confined and extinguished the fire. Severe water damage had affected many levels in the building. Timely actions to turn off the sprinkler branch line, by RFR crew, minimized the potential for more damage. RFR maintained a presence for several hours trying to help mitigate the situation until a restoration company's arrival.

RFR crews were dispatched to flames showing in a structure on Moffat Road. On arrival nothing was showing but RFR crew found smoke on the second floor with no source initially found. Upon further investigation RFR crews located the source of the smoke on the roof coming from a roof ventilation fan. Smoke was cleared and all units cleared. Assistance with response to the call was provided by RCMP and BCAS. BC Hydro and Fortis BC were also notified.

The Fire Prevention Officer, along with RFR Crews responded to an incident of a suspicious structure fire on Burrows Road. The fire had spread to roof area. RFR crews peeled 40 square ft of torch on tar to extinguish the spread of the fire.

There were 4 reports of vehicle fires during September including: a vehicle fire on Ledway Road; a vehicle engine fire on No 2 Road in which Cold Fire Foam used to extinguish the fire; a underground parkade fire on Granville Avenue and a car fire on Barnes Drive.

There were several reports of outdoor fires including: 5 small bark mulch/brush fires; a bus fire on the North Service Road at YVR; a Hydro Pole Fire on Shackelton Road ; a fire burning in a back yard in a 45 gallon drum on Smith Street; a back yard bonfire on Westminster Highway and an open burning on Burrows Road. Two backyard-burning complaints were also received during the month.

During September other fires incidents responded to by RFR crews include a suspicious structure fire on Miller Road at the front entrance of house; and a kitchen Fire on Jones Road, in which the sprinkler activated because of a small kitchen fire, resulting in substantial water damage.

For September 2013, the estimated total Fire Loss was \$1,121,600. This includes \$826,600 for building loss and \$295,000 for content loss. The total building and content value at risk was \$115,356,100, and the total value preserved was \$114,234,500. These numbers translate to 99% of value protected.

<b>Fire Calls By Type and Loss Estimates – September</b>						
<b>Incident Type Breakdown</b>	<b>Call Volume</b>	<b>Estimated Building Value \$</b>	<b>Estimated Building Loss \$</b>	<b>Estimated Content Value \$</b>	<b>Estimated Content Loss \$</b>	<b>Estimated Total Value Preserved \$</b>
Residential:						
- Single-family	4	1,188,100	525,000	649,000	285,000	1,027,100
- Multi-family	9	91,459,000	301,500	22,055,000	10,000	113,202,500
Commercial/Industrial	4	0	0	0	0	0
Fire – Outdoor	10	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle	4	5,000	100	0	0	4,900
<b>Totals*</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>92,652,100</b>	<b>826,600</b>	<b>22,704,000</b>	<b>295,000</b>	<b>114,234,500</b>

\*The dollar losses shown in this table are preliminary estimates. They are derived from RFR's record management system and are subject to change due to delays in reporting and confirmation of actual losses from private insurance agencies (as available).

The fire investigation statistics for September 2013 are listed below:

<b>Total Fire Investigation Statistics – September</b>			
	<b>Suspicious</b>	<b>Accidental</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>
Residential - Single-family	0	4	0
Residential - Multi-family	1	7	1
Commercial/Industrial	1	2	1
Fire – Outdoor	7	1	2
Vehicle	0	1	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>

### HazMat

RFR crews were dispatched to a home on Taseko Crescent for a report of an unknown substance that had been thrown through the front window. First arriving RFR units found that two occupants of the home and two attending RCMP officers were suffering from acute respiratory symptoms and coughing from the exposure to the substance. They were then decontaminated by RFR Crews and sent to hospital for treatment. The incident was elevated to a Level II HazMat response, which involved the deployment of the HazMat team. The surrounding neighbourhood was protected in place and several bystanders were detained and decontaminated as a precaution. The home was sealed with plastic to confine the product inside. Attempts were made to enter the hot zone and analysis of the material failed to identify the substance. The exterior of the home was decontaminated and scene was turned over to RCMP as a crime scene.

All other HazMat calls for September were relatively minor, quickly mitigated, and did not require any long-term HazMat team deployment.

<b>HazMat Calls By Type – September</b>	
<b>HazMat Calls</b>	<b>Details</b>
Criminal Incident	1
Natural Gas/Propane Leaks (small)	5
Flammable/Combustible Liquids	2
Misc. (empty containers to unknown powder)	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

### **Training and Education**

During September 9 members were trained in Technical High Angle Rope Rescue and 11 members were trained in Confined Space Rescue. Lessons plan for Automated External Defibrillator and Public Access Defibrillator program was delivered to 35 suppression members.

### **Community Relations / Public Education**

Richmond Fire-Rescue participated in events and activities for public education during September 2013. The events were as follows:

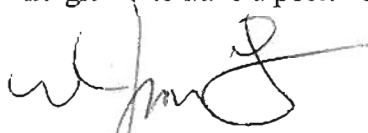
- 28 car seat inspections at Fire Hall No.1
- Pumper visits for: *Old Navy Kids Safety Event*, *Vancouver Sun Raise a Reader* and the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BCSPCA) *Paws for a Cause at Garry Point*.
- Special Events: *911 Memorial Ride*.

### **Financial Impact**

None

### **Conclusion**

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to deliver services and programs through an approach balancing prevention, education and emergency response. This direction is based on the belief that prevention, education and emergency response programs must be well established and integrated to have a positive impact on community safety.



John McGowan  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2734)

JM:js